

[23 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

a final view after taking into account the views of the hon. Members of the House, the views of educationists and the views of all those who have a stake in education. So, there should be no apprehension about it.

Secondly, I am repeating *ad nauseam* that the Government has full commitment for the socially deprived sections of the people and, particularly, for women. The Government has a policy of making education free for all women up to graduation and also for professional courses for the SC/ST girls. So, our commitment for women and for these sections is fully amplified by our policy statements. But, please do not be scared. If somebody wants to help or some institution wants to help our educational system, should we take it or should we not take it? Should the Indian universities remain starved of funds totally? Or, should we make use of the opportunity offered by those donors, as I have said, who are here to help their *alma mater*. We are considering all these aspects and we will take into account to see that any education policy does not deprive anybody who is meritorious and poor with regard to access to higher education upto the highest level.

Secondly, we fully agree that there is a role for the Government at all levels of education, be it primary, be it higher, be it research or be it technology.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Sale of spurious drugs in AIIMS

*44. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a man caught selling spurious drugs recently inside a ward of AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to arrest access of touts who sell spurious drugs in Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per a complaint given by attendant of one of the patients, a man was caught selling drugs in C-2 Ward of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on 27.1.2001 and he was handed over to the Police for interrogation. On investigation, the Police found that the patient's attendant had asked a shopkeeper to supply a medicine by name "Varicomycin" and the shopkeeper supplied "Vancocef CP" which is a substitute. No spurious drug was supplied as alleged by the patient's attendant. Thereafter the complaint was withdrawn by the complainant.

(c) All indoor patients in Central Government hospitals are supplied medicines free of cost. As such, there is no need to buy drugs from outside. In respect of AIIMS, consultants have been instructed to refrain from giving prescriptions to patients or allowing drug vendors to come to the hospital for selling drugs and surgical sundries. All Central Government Hospitals have security arrangements round-the-clock. Security Guards of the hospitals have been instructed to prevent entry of unauthorised persons at the entry points of the hospitals.

Pollution by jute industry

***45. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an international Seminar on 'Jute and Allied Fibres: Changing Scenario' was organised by National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibres Technology, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Kolkata, sponsored by Government of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that papers highlighting the aspects of Environmental pollution in jute industry and retting an extraction of jute problems and prospects were presented in the Seminar;